2. Rajasthan Atomic Power Station—35.49 F/kwh.

3. Madras Atomic Power Station 42.01 P/kwh.

Supply to consumers including industries is effected by respective State Electricity Boards.

(b) The percentage increase in rate of sale of electricity from nuclear power stations during the Sixth Five-Year Plan is 64% for Tarapur Atomic Power Station and 67 per cent for Rajasthan Atomic Power Station.

Deforestation due to mining operations

938. SHRl JAGADISH JANI; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study to assess the impact °f mining operation on forests;

(b) if so, to what extent forest wealth has been denuded in the States where mining operation and exploration has been taken place; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN); (a) to (c) A study to assess the impact of mining on forest lands of the country is not available. With the enforcement of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, with effect from 25-10-1980, diversion of forest land to non-forest use, including mining operations, requires prior approval of the Central Government. Each proposal for mining activity in forest lands is examined carefully, for its impact on forest conservation, and if diversion of forest area is approved, necessarv safeguards are prescribed to ensurs that such area is reclaimed after the mining is over and forest cover restored. In addition, compensatory afforestation is insisted on at the cost *at* the mining project.

New forest policy

993. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have evolved a new Forest Policy; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER. OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRON MENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) and (b) The revision of the existing National Forest Policy is under the consideration of Government.

Deforestation in North Eastern sector

940. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will, the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the eco-system in the North-Eastern Region of the country is undergoing a rapid change due to large-scale deforestation;

(b) what are the names of the States and Union Territories of this Region where deforestation has taken place on an alarming scale;

(c) whether the Central Law on Forest has been effective in this area; and

(d) if not, what are th$_e$ reasons therefbr?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) Deforestation is occurring in the North-Eastern region of the country as in other areas due to various causes including shifting cultivation, population pressure, and illicit felling of trees. In hilly areas, deforestation has serious adverse efnect$_s$ on the eco-system.

(b) All the States and Union Territories of the North-Eastern Region namely, Assam. Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram are affected by this deforestation.